

Sacramento River Conservation Area

Board of Directors

Minutes

September 27, 2001

4:00 p.m.

Willows City Hall

Willows, Ca.

Chairman Ben Carter called the meeting of the Sacramento River Conservation Area to order at 4:05p.m.at the above location. It was determined there was a quorum of (9) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	Doug White	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	(Don Anderson)	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	(Bill Borrer)	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			(Pete Rabbon)
USF&WS			Dan Castleberry
US COE			(Mark Charlton)
Cal DWR			(Dwight Russell)
Bureau of Reclamation			Laura Allen

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

Also present an estimated audience of 25 interested persons

Manager Burt Bundy

Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

- 1) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, UNSCHEDULED MATTERS** – Denny Bungarz reminded everyone about the upcoming Hamilton City Levee Festival on October 14th at the Hamilton City Park. Glenn County and the HCCSD will be signing an MOU and will sign at the festival.
- 2) **CONSENT CALENDAR** – Doug White moved, seconded by Glenn Hawes to adopt the August 23, 2001 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- 3) **ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING** – Denny discussed the Advisory Council meeting held recently in Sacramento. Burt Bundy presented the annual report to the group, the proposed handbook amendments were also presented; there was some discussion on the amendments but there were no suggested changes. Stacy Cepello, DWR, reviewed the GIS system and the progress being made on mapping public ownership of properties. Paul Ward and Harry Rectenwald from the DF&G gave an update on the fisheries recommendations outlined in the 1989 Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Plan. Glenn Hawes

commented on the presentation; how informative it was and how much of the work from the '89 plan has been completed.

- 4) **ADOPTION OF HANDBOOK AMENDMENTS** – The Chairman spoke briefly of the process involving the six proposed amendments as they moved from the last Board meeting to the Advisory Council, back to the Board now for adoption. It was moved by Glenn Hawes, seconded by Denny Bungarz, that the Board adopt the specific Handbook amendments. There was a request by Tom Evans to identify fish screens specifically in line 6 of the Hard Point/Bank Stabilization language. The Chairman noted the Handbook is a living document that can be changed at any time, it can be added to now or in the future. Marc Faye felt the subsequent sentence in the language addressed the issue. Lynnel Pollock noted the actual language says pumping plants and that would include fish screens. Tom Evans and Shirley Lewis requested that the record show that fish screens are considered a part of the pumping plant structure. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

5) **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS** –

- **Executive Committee** – Chair Ben Carter noted the discussion items at the Executive Committee meeting included (1) Outreach Committee will look at bids received back on logo, brochure, and website development and make a proposal to the Board. (2) general discussion on the Advisory Council meeting (3) Handbook amendments (4) discussion on whether SRCA Board needs legal counsel? The Committee will recommend to the Board that this issue be pursued, not to retain counsel at this time, but rather to establish a relationship. Burt will explore further, talk with other organizations, and bring information back to the next meeting (5) project proposal review – Ben discussed the idea of a Board sub-committee to define process by which someone who has a project will know what to do with it. Would like to become more proactive with projects. First task to define a process - what do we need, and what do we do with it, is first step the Board, the TAC or the subcommittee? Diana Jacobs, Denny Bungarz, Jane Dolan, and Dan Keppen will form the sub-committee. Tom Evans asked a question about the Board's approval and/or disapproval of a project - Ben noted the Board does not approve or disapprove a project – it would be examining whether or not it meets the guidelines of the Handbook. The role of the SRCA is to facilitate, not inhibit, to provide a forum for discussion before it is done. Shirley Lewis noted that if too much information is required, that will discourage people from coming forward until a lot of the work has been done.
- **TAC Report**- Dan Keppen, TAC Chair, reported that the main topic of discussion at the last TAC meeting was also the project review process, and the need to define the role of the TAC and Board. Dan suggested that the sub-committee address the development of a list of minimum criteria needed for each project, and a time frame for getting it on the agenda. Dan also informed the group that after the last TAC he has had questions asked about NEPA/CEQA for the SRCA program and concerns about cumulative impacts and what about monitoring as restoration continues. CALFED also recognizes that this has to be worked through as conversion continues. It was suggested that this issue, specifically, the conversion of Ag land to habitat, be on the agenda for a future meeting of the TAC, Board, or both.
- **Landowner Assurances** – The Chairman reported there was no meeting in September. He noted Allan Fulton has been sourcing material on the issues this committee is attempting to address. Ben will try to have a rough draft "good neighbor policy" statement at next meeting on October 11.

- **PILT/Econ Committee** -Denny reported the meeting in September was cancelled due to conflicting schedules. Will meet right after the Board meeting to set a new date and time. He informed the Board there is a bill in the House and Senate that would require full PILT payment – he will keep everyone posted as they move forward.
 - **Outreach Committee** - Laura Allen reported that the Committee is looking at developing a logo, an expanded brochure, and possibly a website that would have links to public use/recreation information. The SRCA staff is currently asking consulting firms for proposals and the Committee will review those proposals at the next meeting. They discussed the need for positive projects. Tom Evans suggested using newspaper ads as part of the campaign.
- 6) **MANAGER’S REPORT** – Burt welcomed Jim McKeivitt, past ex-officio Board member, to the meeting. **Hamilton City** has good support for the dual track of a Section 205 Feasibility Study and a Comp. Study Initial Project. There are monies in the 2001 Federal budget. **Woodson Bridge** (Kopta Slough) has strong support from local elected representatives. A request has been made to include monies in the 2002 budget to determine the best way to proceed on this project. The comment period is open on the 1603 permit for **M&T**, it will end October 18th. The ranches did receive \$200,000 from the City of Chico and are also submitting a proposal for funding for both the dredging and the development of a long-term solution. Dan reported that Les Heringer, M&T, asked that Dan apprise the group of their efforts to use federal equipment for the work that needs to be done on the gravel bar. DF&G also reported they are looking to see if they have any equipment that may be available. Trust for Public Lands announced the purchase of a conservation easement on the Fenwood Ranch, they will be working on a management plan and would like to include the SRCA. DWR, in cooperation with F&WS, has opened a large area in the Sutter by-pass refuge through strip clearing and tree removal and will also do some hand clearing. They will have completed before flood season. Burt noted that the Tisdale Weir is next in the planning process. Lynnel noted they have the same problem in the Yolo by-pass and asked if they would be doing work there. Burt reported he is still working with TNC on the sub-reach plan proposal for the area above Colusa that will look at biological, hydrologic, and economic impacts within the area.
- 7) **AGENCY REPORTS** – Rebecca Fris, CALFED, informed the group she will try to attend the SRCA Board meetings as CALFED’s representative to update the SRCA and be available for questions. The extension of the PSP due date to October 5 does not change the end date - public comment will be in January, final decision in late February or early March. They are trying to get a public advisory group in place - try to have another forum available and a policy group in December. CALFED is looking for input from local people; best point will be January for public input; public comment follows the initial recommendations by the selection committee. Diana Jacobs, DF&G, noted they own several thousand acres and are starting discussions with the Sacramento River Refuge to see how they can tie in with the Refuge’s land management planning process. Scott Clemons, Wildlife Conservation Board, discussed a grant request from the Sacramento River Partners to acquire the Pamma property, a 259-acre parcel. The property was appraised at 1.7 million; it is surrounded by public ownership on 3 sides and a county maintained road on the south side. The landowner has struggled with managing walnuts and almonds and the property is flood prone. SRP has a letter of support from Tom Southam, an adjoining landowner. This proposal is being

considered for the November 28th WCB agenda process; a decision will be made by October 1st. It was noted that the original CALFED proposal was (1) not brought before SRCA Board and (2) had not been accepted by CALFED. John Carlon, Sacramento River Partners, explained there had been a misunderstanding as to process and initially there was a question on fish benefit and how direct the benefits were. This time they are looking at all wildlife, not just fish, which is a better fit. A question was raised about the environmental review. John explained the process would be to (1) acquire property (2) take out 96 acres of almonds and (3) sit down with staff, SRCA, landowners and develop a management plan; if need an environmental review, they would address it. Henry Rodegerdts suggested if you are taking agricultural land out of production, CEQA mandates that you present analysis for public review; CEQA is concerned about cumulative impacts. Scott Clemons noted that the policy now is to file document after Board has made decision. John Merz suggested that the points regarding the environmental review process need to be addressed in another forum. John Carlon noted that an encroachment permit requires environmental review. Lynnel Pollock stated that the Landowners Assurances Committee is a good place to look at this issue, which all of the counties are dealing with. Scott noted they are very interested in the opinions of the SRCA Board and also noted the WCB will be the lead agency and will file necessary environmental documents. They will provide a write-up on this to the SRCA if a decision is made to this on their agenda.

Dan Castleberry discussed the CVPIA's coordination with the CALFED process. Annual work plans will not specify actions because they are being integrated with the CALFED process, the habitat restoration program, the anadromous fish program, and gravel replenishment on the mainstem of the Sacramento River; they won't make decisions until it goes through CALFED process. Decision makers under CVPIA are regional managers for the Bureau and F&WS. The review process will be similar - will notify public when meetings are scheduled. Greg Mensik, USF&WS, discussed the work on the Sutter bypass and also noted some concerns about federal equipment being used for work at the M&T/Llano Seco - there are restrictions and certifications that will be necessary. Greg also announced the selection of a new Assistant Refuge Manager who will be on board in November. The second update on the comprehensive conservation planning efforts at the Refuge is out.

Doug White expressed his thanks to the state and federal people who have worked on the Sutter bypass.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17th, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows.

The next SRCA Board meeting will be on October 25th, 4:00 p.m., Willows City Hall, Willows and December 6th, 4:00 p.m., Willows City Hall, Willows. There will be no Board meeting in November because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Denny set a tentative date of October 18th at 1:30, Board Conference Room for the PILT/Econ Committee meeting.

8) ADJOURN – 5:55 p.m.